

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7172

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECOSOC, SGEN

SUBJECT: 60TH ECOSOC-UN DECADE FOR WOMEN

1. SUMMARY: DURING APRIL 25,26,27 MEETINGS OF ECOSOC SOCIAL COMITE, THE FOLLOWING DELS DELIVERED STATEMENTS WITH REGARD TO AGENDA ITEM 9, THE UN DECADE FOR WOMEN: ARGENTINA, EGYPT, PAKISTAN, BELGIUM, JAMAICA, MEXICO, AFGHANISTAN, BANGLADESH, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, IRAN, GDR, JAPAN, BULGARIA, PERU, USSR, JORDAN, NIGERIA, US, ROMANIA, NORWAY, AUSTRIA, GREECE, AND CUBA. ALTHOUGH CUBA AND BULGARIA WERE THE ONLY TWO DELS WHOSE STATEMENTS DEFINITELY DID NOT SUPPORT ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PROPOSED INSTITUTE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN (E/5772), SUPPORT VARIED AMONG DELS FROM ENTHUSIASM TO RESIGNATION. MOST DELS AGREED THAT THE INSTITUTE SHOULD FUNCTION AS AN AUTONOMOUS BODY WITH IN THE UN SYSTEM, BUT MANY WARNED OF THE DANGER OF PROLIFERATION OF INSTITUTIONS WITH THE SAME OR SIMILAR GOALS, AND STRESSED THE NEED FOR THE INSTITUTE TO ASSUME THE ROLE OF COORDINATOR AMONG EXISTING NATIONAL, REGIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL BODIES, COMPLEMENTING RATHER THAN DUPLICATING THEIR EFFORTS. ISSUES WHICH SURFACED FREQUENTLY DURING DEBATE ON CONTINUATION OF THE INTERNA-

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TIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR (IWY) VOLUNTARY FUND INCLUDED QUESTION

OF NGO USE OF FUND RESOURCES, IMPORTANCE OF DIRECTING RESOURCES TO MOST DISADVANTAGED AMONG LDC'S, USE OF FUND FOR SUCH ITEMS AS RESEARCH, PUBLICITY, AND NEED TO ESTABLISH SOME INTER-GOVERNMENTAL BODY TO REVIEW PROJECT PROPOSALS. END SUMMARY.

2. ON APRIL 25,26, 27 ECOSOC SOCIAL COMITE DEBATED AGENDA ITEM 9, UN DECADE FOR WOMEN. ALTHOUGH ONLY CUBA AND BULGARIA DEFINITELY FAILED TO SUPPORT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PROPOSED INSTITUTE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN (E/5772) (ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE PROPOSAL WAS PREMATURE AND MORE STUDY WAS INDICATED BEFORE MAKING SUCH A COMMITMENT), NORWAY ALSO VOICED SERIOUS CONCERN ABOUT THE DANGER OF A PROLIFERATION OF FUNDS AND INSTITUTES WHICH THREATEN TO DUPLICATE RATHER THAN COMPLEMENT UN EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF WOMEN. IN RELUCTANTLY AGREEING TO SUPPORT THE INSTITUTE AND FUND, NORWAY STRESSED THE VIEW THAT RESOURCES MUST BE CONCENTRATED ON A FEW WELL CHOSEN PROJECTS AIMED AT THE LEAST ADVANTAGED OF THE LDC'S AND NOT SPENT ON SUCH MATTERS AS INCREASED STAFF, PUBLICITY OR ADDITIONAL RESEARCH.

3. THE MOST FUNDAMENTAL ISSUE RAISED THROUGH OUT DEBATE WAS THE CONCERN THAT THE PROPOSED INSITITUTE ACT AS A COORDINATOR AMONG EXISTING INSTITUTIONS, A "CLEARINGHOUSE" FOR INFORMATION, RESEARCH, AND PROGRAMS ALREADY UNDERTAKEN ELSEWHERE IN THE UN SYSTEM, AND THAT IT WORK IN CLOSE COOPERATION WITH REGIONAL CENTERS. EGYPT, AUSTRIA, NIGERIA, JAMAICA ESPECIALLY HIGHLIGHTED THIS POINT. THERE WAS SOME DIFFERENCE OF OPINION AS TO WHETHER THE CURRENT PROPOSAL DOES THREATEN TO DUPLICATE THE WORK OF EXISTING INSTITUTIONS, BUT ALL AGREED THAT SUCH DUPLICATION SHOULD BE AVOIDED. IRAN CONTINUED TO STRONGLY SUPPORT ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NEW INSTITUTE AND REITERATED THE GOI OFFER TO HOST IT. (PLEDGE OF \$1 MILLION BY IRAN'S PRINCESS ASHRAF IS CONDITIONAL ON LOCATION OF THE INSTITUTE IN IRAN). NO DELS OFFERED FUNDS FOR THE PROPOSED INSTITUTE.

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4. THE OTHER POINTS WHICH SURFACED FREQUENTLY INVOLVED FINANCING AND PROPOSALS ON THE MOST EFFECTIVE USE OF THE EXISTING RESOURCES OF THE IWY VOLUNTARY FUND. THERE WAS A GOOD DEAL OF DEBATE BUT NO REAL CONSENSUS ABOUT THE ROLE OF NGO'S AND THEIR USE OF FUND RESOURCES. CUBA AND BULGARIA OPPOSED ALLOWING NGO'S TO USE FUND RESOURCES, WHILE EGYPT AND GREECE ARGUED THAT NGO'S SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO DO SO. OTHER DELS MADE NO CLEAR COMITMENTS

ON THE MATTER. ANOTHER POTENTIAL USE OF THE FUND, TO FINANCE PUBLICITY CAMPAIGNS AND/OR INFORMATION DISSEMINATION WAS MENTIONED FREQUENTLY, WITH MEXICO AND PERU STRESSING THE NEED FOR FUNDS IN THIS AREA AND JAMAICA, AMONG OTHERS, OPPOSING THE IDEA. THE ISSUE OF USING FUNDS RESOURCES FOR INCREASED SECRETARIAT PERSONNEL FOR PREPARATIONS PRELIMINARY TO SETTING UP THE INSTITUTE WAS CONTROVERSIAL. BELGIUM AND MEXICO ARGUED THAT NO SUCH INCREASE WAS CALLED FOR, GIVEN THE MEAGER RESOURCES AVAILABLE, BUT NIGERIA SUPPORTED THE SECRETARIAT PROPOSAL. NORWAY SUGGESTED THAT IF MORE STAFF WAS NEEDED, THEY BE PAID FROM OTHER SOURCES. MANY DELS, INCLUDING PAKISTAN, AUSTRIA, NIGERIA, ROMANIA, AND NORWAY STRESSED THE NEED FOR INSTITUTE EFFORTS AND FUND RESOURCES TO BE FOCUSED ON THE LEAST ADVANTAGED AMONG LDC'S.

5. SUPPORT WAS UNIVERSAL FOR SOME FORM OF INTER-GOVERNMENTAL INPUT INTO SELECTION OF PROPOSALS FOR SUPPORT FOR THE IWY VOLUNTARY FUND. PLEDGES OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT WERE CONSPICUOUSLY LACKING. BELGIAN DEL ANNOUNCED PLAN FOR DONATION, SUBJECT TO FURTHER GOVERNMENT APPROVAL, OF \$125,000. UK RECENTLY PROMISED DONATION OF POUNDS 300,000.

6. FOLLOWING IS INFORMAL DRAFT RESOLUTION CIRCULATED AT APRIL 27 MEETING, DEPT COMMENTS REQUESTED. DEPT SHOULD NOTE THAT PROPOSED CRITERIA NO LONGER INCLUDE NGO USE OF FUND RESOURCES, AND THAT MANAGEMENT SECTION PROVIDES FOR A FIVE-MEMBER CONSULTATIVE COMITE, APPORTIONED ON A REGIONAL BASIS. MISSION HAS HEARD COMMENTS THAT DONOR STATES SHOULD BE GIVEN PRIORITY IN ELECTION TO ABOVE CONSULTATIVE COMITE. QUOTE
THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
RECALLING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S RESOLUTION 3520(XXX),
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WHICH PROCLAIMED THE PERIOD 1976-1985 UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN: EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE.
RECALLING ALSO THE DECISION OF THE THIRTIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT THE VOLUNTARY FUND FOR THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR ESTABLISHED BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL IN ITS RESOLUTION 1850 (XVI) BE EXTENDED TO COVER THE PERIOD OF THE DECADE.
HAVING CONSIDERED THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE VOLUNTARY FUND FOR THE DECADE (E/5773),
RECOMMENDS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA AND PROPOSALS FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE FUND BE ADOPTED,

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CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

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I CRITERIA:

THE RESOURCES OF THE FUND SHOULD BE UTILIZED TO SUPPLEMENT ACTIVITIES IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS DESIGNED TO IMPLEMENT THE GOALS OF THE DECADE:

(A) TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES.

(B) DEVELOPMENT AND/OR STRENGTHENING OF REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES.

(C) DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF JOINT INTER-ORGANIZATIONAL PROGRAMMES.

(D) RESEARCH, DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS, RELEVANT TO CRITERIA (A),(B) AND (C) ABOVE.

(E) COMMUNICATION SUPPORT AND PUBLIC INFORMATION ACTIVITIES DESIGNED TO PROMOTE THE GOALS OF THE DECADE, AND IN PARTICULAR THE ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN IN (A),(B) AND (C) ABOVE.

II. MANAGEMENT OF THE FUND:

ENDORSES THE PROPOSALS FOR THE FUTURE MANAGEMENT OF THE FUND FOR THE DECADE FOR WOMEN: EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE CONTAINED IN THE ANNEX TO THIS RESOLUTION.

REQUESTS THE PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO NOMINATE, WITH DUE REGARD TO REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION, IN THE FIRST INSTANCE FOR A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS, FIVE MEMBER STATES

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EACH OF WHICH SHOULD APPOINT A REPRESENTATIVE TO SERVE ON A CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE TO ADVISE THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE APPLICATION OF THE CRITERIA IN PARAGRAPH I ABOVE TO THE USE OF THE FUND.

REQUESTS THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO REPORT ANNUALLY TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE MANAGEMENT OF THE FUND.

---ANNEX---

(A) SOLICITATION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PLEDGES AND THE COLLECTION OF CONTRIBUTIONS

(I) THE CONTROLLER, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND HUMANITARIA AFFAIRS, WILL DETERMINE THE RESPONSIBILITY AND PROCEDURES FOR SOLICITING VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FUND;

(II) ANY PROSPECTIVE DONOR DESIRING TO MAKE A VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION TO THE FUND SHALL SUBMIT A WRITTEN PROPOSAL TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL. THE REQUEST FOR ACCEPTANCE SHOULD CONTAIN ALL RELEVANT INFORMATION, INCLUDING THE AMOUNT OF THE PROPOSED CONTRIBUTION, THE CURRENCY, THE TIMING OF PAYMENTS, AND MAY INDICATE THE PRUPOSES AND ANY ACTION EXPECTED OF THE UNITED NATIONS;

(III) THE PROPOSAL, WITH THE COMMENTS, INTER ALIA, OF THE UNDER-SECRETARY GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS, SHALL BE FORWARDED TO THE CONTROLLER, WHO SHALL DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT ANY PROPOSED GIFT OR DONATION TO THE TRUST MIGHT DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY INVOLVE ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL LIABILITY FOR THE ORGANIZATION. BEFORE ACCEPTANCE OF ANY GIFT OR DONATION INVOLVING SUCH LIABILITY THE CONTROLLER WILL REQUEST AND OBTAIN THE APPROVAL OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THROUGH THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS;

(IV) THE CONTROLLER SHALL ACKNOWLEDGE ALL PLEDGES AND WILL DETERMINE THE BANK ACCOUNT OR ACCOUNTS IN WHICH CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FUND SHOULD BE DEPOSITED. HE WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR COLECTING CONTRIBUTIONS AND FOLLOWING UP ON PAYMENTS OF CONTRIBUTIONS PLEDGED;

(V) THE DONOR WILL BE REQUESTED TO REMIT THE FULL AMOUNT OF THE CONTRIBUTION IN THE UNITED STATES DOLLARS OR ANY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OTHER FREELY CONVERTIBLE CURRENCY. THE CONTROLLER MAY, HOWEVER, ACCEPT CONTRIBUTIONS IN OTHER CURRENCIES WHEN IN HIS JUDGEMENT IT IS CLEARLY POSSIBLE TO USE THE CONTRIBUTIONS

FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE FUND.

(B) OPERATIONS AND CONTROL

(I) THE CONTROLLER SHALL ENSURE THAT THE OPERATION AND CONTROL OF THE FUND IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FINANCIAL REGULATIONS AND RULES. HE MAY DELEGATE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE OPERATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE FUND TO THE HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS OR OFFICES DESIGNATED BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO EXECUTE ACTIVITIES FINANCED BY THE FUND. ONLY OFFICIALS SO DESIGNATED MAY AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTION OF SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES TO BE FINANCED BY THE FUND;

(II) SUBJECT TO THE CRITERIA FOR DISBURSEMENTS FROM THE FUND, ENDORSED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THE CONTROLLER MAY, AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS, ALLOCATE RESOURCES OF THE FUND TO A SPECIALIZED AGENCY, ANOTHER UNITED NATIONS BODY TO EXECUTE PROJECTS FINANCED BY THE FUND. IN SUCH AN EVENT, THE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES OF THE EXECUTING BODY WOULD APPLY, SUBJECT TO SUCH PROVISIONS FOR PERIODIC REPORTING AS THE CONTROLLER MAY SPECIFY;

(III) IN RESPECT OF ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED BY THE UNITED NATIONS, REQUESTS FOR ALLOTMENTS OF FUNDS SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO THE CONTROLLER BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS, ACCOMPANIED BY SUCH SUPPORTING INFORMATION AS THE CONTROLLER MAY REQUIRE. AFTER REVIEW, ALLOTMENTS TO PROVIDE FOR EXPENDITURE OF THE FUNDS RECEIVED SHALL BE ISSUED BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE BUDGET DIVISION, AND CERTIFYING OFFICERS FOR THE FUND WILL BE DESIGNATED BY THE CONTROLLER IN ACCORDANCE WITH ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES;

(IV) THE CONTROLLER SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE REPORTING OF ALL FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS CONCERNING THE FUND AND SHALL ISSUE QUARTERLY STATEMENTS OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES, AND UNENCUMBERED FUND BALANCE, INCOME AND EXPENDITURE;

(V) THE FUND SHALL BE AUDITED BY BOTH THE INTERNATIONAL AUDIT SERVICE AND THE BOARD OF AUDITORS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FINANCIAL REGULATIONS AND RULES.

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Message Attributes

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